Growth of consumer durables

1299. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first month of the current fiscal, failed to bring cheer to Rs. 48,000 crore consumer durables industry with most categories including colour television, witnessing sluggish growth;

(b) if so, the main reasons of slow growth rate in the industry;

(c) the edible items of consumer durables where growth has been slow; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) No Sir. As per information provided by the Central Statistical Origanisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, most of the consumer durables including edible items have shown positive growth during the month of April, 2005 as compared to April, 2004.

Scam in PDS allocations

1300. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multi-crore scam in the public distribution system of wheat allocated by the Central Government to the State for distribution among the people living above poverty line has come to light in Karnal District in Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons who have been arrested in this scam?